



## Arlington Tree Committee

Date: Wednesday, November 13, 2019

Time: 7:30pm

Location: Arlington Town Hall

### Minutes

Attending: Eliza, Mary Ellen, Steve, Keith, Mara, Brian, Tim, Ed and Phil. Visitors: JoAnne Preston and Beth Melofchik

#### 1. Approve October Meeting Minutes – Delayed.

#### 2. Design Initiatives in Town with potential to impact trees

- Broadway Corridor Meeting Recap – Arlington planning dept is working with MIT students who are using Arlington's Broadway corridor as a case study for them. Keith and Mara attended. Good community input opportunity. (**Brian and Mara and Eliza and Keith plan to follow up with MIT students**)
- Tree-lined corridors/ Pam H visitor (Exec Dir of Housing Corp Arl) – not discussed
- Broadway Plaza Community Input meeting scheduled for Nov 20

#### 3. Publicity/Community Outreach

- Construction Guidelines draft (For now, Tim has a working-draft from US Forest Service for use to inform builders/contractors. ATC will work with Tim to help develop a comprehensive info packet to explain bylaw changes, what a tree plan looks like, and detail construction guidelines to protect CRZ. Engineering has initiated a seamless way to alert Tim for when a curb cut is asked. (**Mara will work with Tim on finding a sample tree plan. Eliza, Keith, Mary Ellen will draft construction guidelines & poster for Tim**)
- Susan drafted a letter re: Bylaw to announce changes; this may be used as part of above packet. **Susan offered to call around to other towns to see what they are doing to inform builders.**
- Instagram, FB and Google groups activity. Adam C enjoys seeing ATC presence on social media
- PDF of EAB Outreach/New Covenant School brochures were forwarded from Mara (**MEA will reprint**)
- Visit Community Tree Canopy tree sites for reporting on success; write article – **will be done in spring**
- Recommended trees updated list on website – did. Need to add conifers: Leyland Cypress, frasier fir, balsam fir, white fir, red cedar, Canadian hemlock, tamarack.

#### 4. DPW Tree Dept/Tree Warden Update

- Tree hearing(s) - nothing
- Tree Bylaw activity

- A. 546 Appleton Street – across Rt 2 into Arlmont. Contractor is working with Tim to submit Tree Plan and save trees on site
- B. 15 Kensington Rd follow up – has a tree plan (2 trees taken out)
- Fall planting update – 150 bare root trees came in last Thursday. 100 requests are being fulfilled and 50 to be planted in Tree Zone 3 per Mgmt Plan. Tim edited door hanger to alert residents not to fertilize and volcano mulch. Tim explained that he's had a higher incidence of tree refusal this season (ironically in areas with the lightest tree canopy). Brainstorming how ATC can help:
  - Should ATC provide a Rapid Response for folks that don't want a tree, can we convince them?
  - Offer free raking (Watertown does it)?
  - Reach out to folks that have had a tree taken down to try to convince them to get a new tree? (Tim will email MEA the door hanger, maybe we can embellish it with more info on why trees are important).
  - ATC will work to do a push on why street trees are good – shade, noise, property values. Then, when we run out of places to plant, the town could maybe consider returning to list to identify folks that didn't want a tree. Use ACMI, Advocate, Your Arlington, etc to reach all demographic groups in town.
- Gas leaks update. Susan reported that she and Adam C met with Bob Ackley who will conduct a pilot program (limited to one tree zone) identifying gas leaks so we can see how it works before committing to a town-wide effort to identify leaks this way.

5. *Check in on developments with zoning changes – Keith.* Nov 18 is the next meeting, **Keith will reach out to Planning Dept to attend.**

6. *New Business*

- Removal of tree stakes on older trees; recruit volunteers (**MEA to send out a list of trees planted by year to be able to find the trees that need stakes/straps removed. Bare root need stakes for 2 years. Ball and burlap need 1 year.**)
- Method to efficiently and effectively plant trees by the DPW in vicinity of projects covered by the Tree Bylaw now that new Bylaw provisions are in effect. (Tim provided tree planting constraints: no street strip, private way, people don't want it. What about offering in a private lot) (**ATC to look into resurrecting the 'off berm' (or setback planting documents and ideas – Susan offered).**)
- ATC continues to update Inventory with more accurate placement of trees out of place - need more ATC volunteers.

**Meeting Adjourned - 9:20pm.**

**Next meeting:** December 10, 2019